

Lake County FSA Office
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Ronan, MT 59864
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County Committee Members

Susan Lake
Shirley Eye
Oliver Dupuis

FSA Office Personnel

Dennis Krantz, PT
Sharon Rosenbaum, PT
Teresa Rader, FLPT
Stacy Thornbrugh, Temp.
Fred Smith, Credit Manager
Dale Neiman, CED

Dates to Remember:

January 31, 2008 – Final LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2007
March 17, 2008 – NAP sales closing date for all crops except value loss crops



Livestock Compensation Program for 2007

Lake County has become eligible for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for 2007. Livestock producers that suffered feed losses during 2007 due to drought, heat, fire, grasshoppers or summer storms may receive benefits thru this office. Payment will be based on a comparison of the eligible livestock owned or cash leased on the beginning of the disaster period vs the eligible feed loss. If additional feed costs were incurred due to disaster conditions, these additional costs may increase a producer's benefits.

Producers should provide proof of ownership and livestock numbers as well as identifying their dryland native range and tame pastures on FSA maps when they sign up. Pasture lease agreements must be provided to this office. Grazing association membership must also be submitted.

Please contact this office prior to coming in to file an application for this program. We can verify what information you will need prior to your office visit and set up an appointment date that will fit your schedule and ours.

Detailed explanations of eligible livestock and eligibility requirements are at the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Livestock Indemnity Program for 2007

Lake County is also eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for 2007. Livestock that died from disaster conditions in 2007 such as fire or drought or summer storms may be eligible under this program.

Producers must provide supporting documents showing the number and kind of livestock that died as a direct result of the disaster such as vet records, purchase records, etc. Contact this office for further information.

Annual Notice of Payment Eligibility to Producers

FSA program benefits may not be provided to any producer until the applicable payment eligibility determinations are made.

A producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Payment Limitation/Eligibility determinations may be initiated by the FSA County Committee or requested by the producer. Statutory provisions require that entities earning program benefits provide FSA with the names, addresses, and ID numbers for the members of the entity. Furthermore, entities earning payments must inform their members of the requirements for designating "permitted entities."

All Payment Eligibility forms (CCC-502) submitted by a producer are subject to spot check through the End-of-Year Review process. Farming operations selected for an End-of-Year Review will be required to submit documents to verify their contributions of capital, land, equipment, labor, and management.

Individuals, joint operations, or entities which are determined to be "not actively engaged in farming," will be ineligible for Direct and Counter Cyclical (DCP) Payments, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP's), Marketing Loan Gains, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments, and possible Disaster related program payments such as the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Payments and the Quality Loss Program (QLP) Payments.

Spouses may be determined to be two "Persons" only if this determination is requested in writing and the applicable requirements are met by each spouse.

County Committee Election

Susan Lake of Ronan was elected to a second term on the Lake County FSA Committee. Susan will continue on the board with Shirley Eye of St. Ignatius and Oliver Dupuis of Polson. The Committee oversees the operation of the Lake County FSA Office and ensures that all programs are carried out in an equitable manner.

Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of United States agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. FSA administers this program for USDA. Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land are required to report the transaction to FSA within 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property.

County government offices, realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

AFIDA was enacted to establish a nationwide system to monitor ownership and purchases of U.S. agricultural land by foreign persons.

Crop Disaster Program (CDP) Signup

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before December 31, 2007.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. .

Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP.

The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

Secretarial Disaster Designation for Lake County

Lake County has received a Secretarial Disaster Designation due to the combined effects of storms, hail, high winds, drought, excessive heat, wildfires and grasshoppers for the period January 1, 2007 and ongoing.

Emergency Actual Loss Loans are available for qualifying Lake County producers that suffered production and physical losses in 2007. July 7, 2008 is the final date to submit applications for these emergency loans.

Further information is available thru Fred Smith, Farm Loan Manager for Lake County at 676-2811.

Farm Bill Update

At this point in time, the 2002 Farm Bill has expired and a new Farm Bill has not yet been enacted. Until the new Farm Bill is put in place, signup for a program similar to the Direct and Counter Cyclical Payment Program is uncertain.

This office will announce the provisions of a new program as soon as we are notified along with signup dates.

Lake Co. FSA Office

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